Apart from above the following companies have yet to start Service/are in the process of starting Service as on 31.10.2002

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Service Area
1.	Tata Teleservices Limited	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai), Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi
2.	Reliance Infocom Limited	Andman & Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar (including Jharkhand) Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerla, Madhya Pradesh (including Chhatisgarh), Maharashtra (including GOA and Mumbai), Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu (including Chennai), Uttar Pradesh-East, Uttar Pradesh-West, West Bengal (including Kolkata), Delhi.

CGHS facility to group A&B officers

2224. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Service Group A&B officers are entitled for CGHS facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons for which 'deemed during deputation' to MTNL they are being compulsorily asked to adopt the medical facility available in MTNL without giving them the option to continue in CGHS; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to allow all such officers of MTNL to opt for CGHS until their absorption and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was no compulsion for Group "A" & "B" officers to adopt the medical facility available in MTNL by the Management of MTNL. With the introduction of MTNL medical scheme for Group "C" & "D" employees of MTNL on their absorption, these Group 'C' & 'D' employees were taken out of the ambit of CGHS. Thereafter, some of

the CGHS Dispensaries started denying treatment to the Group 'A' & 'B' officers working on deemed depution in MTNL. Then the Officers' Association had requested the authorities to extend the MTNL medical facility to Group 'A' & 'B' officers also.

(c) The Group 'A' & 'B' officers will be allowed to avail the CGHS medical facilities if they opt for it. The denial if any, from CGHS dispensaries will be taken up by Department of Telecom with the Department of Health for extending the CGHS medical facilities for the willing Group 'A' & 'B' officers on deemed deputation in MTNL.

Postage stamps on historical places

2225. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the famous historic temples of Tamil Nadu especially from Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Thirichirpalli and Thanjavour Districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether any representation has been received by Government in respect of release of special postage stamps on these historical places; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to have special postage stamps on those historical places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Branch post offices in H.P.

2226. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branch post offices working in Himachal Pradesh, District-wise and Panchayat-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to upgrade the branch post offices in the State;